

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend Figures 1-8b as shown in the enclosed replacement sheets. Figures 1-5b have been amended to reflect that the figures are "Prior Art." Further, Figures 3-8b have been amended to create uniform markings for words and numeric references. Applicant submits that these replacement figures are formal. Also, a separate letter to the Official Draftsperson is enclosed.

REMARKS

Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 11-17 are allowable and indicating that claims 6 and 8 contain allowable subject matter.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 11, and 18 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 11, and 18.

Claim Amendments

Independent claims 1 and 18 have been amended by way of this reply. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that a support member is disposed on the substrate and a flexible support device is connected to the support member. Claim 18 has been amended to clarify that a support means bears at least part of a load placed on the integrated circuit package and a flexible means connected to the support means supports the at least part of the load. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments, as support for these amendments may be found, for example, in Figure 6 and in paragraph [0030] of the present application.

Objection(s)

The drawings were objected to for not designating Figures 1-5b as "Prior Art". The drawings have been amended by way of this reply in view of this rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 10, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0085453 in the name of Eyman *et al.*

(hereinafter "Eyman"). Claims 1 and 18 have been amended by way of this reply to clarify the present invention recited. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to an integrated circuit package which has a flexible support member to support at least part of a load placed on the integrated circuit package. The Examiner asserted that none of the prior art teaches, alone or in combination, the limitation of "a support member attached to the substrate and connected to a flexible support device in supportive contact with the load source" (*see* Office Action, January 26, 2005, pages 4-5, "Allowable Subject Matter"). Accordingly, amended independent claim 1, which requires, in part, (i) a support member disposed on the substrate and (ii) a flexible support device connected to the support member and in operative contact with the load source, is now allowable for at least this reason. Similarly, amended independent claim 18, which requires, in part, (i) support means for bearing at least part of a load placed on the integrated circuit package and (ii) flexible means connected to the support means for supporting the at least part of the load, is also allowable for at least this reason.

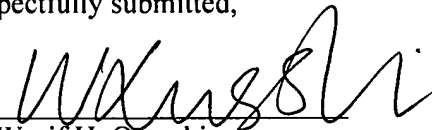
In view of the above, Eyman fails to show or suggest the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 18. Thus, amended independent claims 1 and 18 are patentable over Eyman. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places the present application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03226/387001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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